



The Children's Corner Howick: October/November 2015

Welcome Back for Term 4

Hope you all had a wonderful 2 week break from the usual routine and found some time for relaxation! You'll notice that our newsletter is now being e-mailed directly to you - this was as a result of our annual questionnaire where we noticed that many parents commented that they weren't managing to read our web based newsletters. These will continue to be posted on our website but also e-mailed to you too as a way to ensure you don't miss out on valuable information.

Core Values Review

In term 3 we started a self-review of our Centre Vision. Although we were all happy with the contents of the existing vision and felt that it still reflected what we do and who we are we didn't quite feel it captured everything. As a result we decided to define who we are through establishing "Core Values" and describing what these look like in practice. You will find these attached.

Our Core Values will filter through centre practices and processes to ensure they are "living and breathing" and become fully integrated in all that we do. For example, we will be incorporating them into teacher's appraisals and job descriptions, children's learning stories, information to new parents etc.

As always we value your feedback and would love to hear your thoughts.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that in Cindy's absence we welcome Josephine Difuntorum. Josephine is a NZ ECE qualified teacher with a Montessori Diploma and many years teaching experience. She has most recently worked for Tipu Montessori (formerly Wee Wisdom) in Otahuhu. Josephine will start work on Monday 5th October and her regular days will be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Josephine will take over as Key Teacher for the children Cindy was previously looking after.

Jamie will be on annual leave from the end of November through to the end of term 4. We wish her a safe journey to Shanghai and hope she has a wonderful time! She will return for the January holiday programme.

Our regular reliever and previous practicum student Anbu will continue to support us when required and has become a firm favourite with our pre-schoolers so we're delighted to continue to work with her.

Teacher's Learning and Development

- Fiona and Diane will be attending a Transition to School workshop on the 20th October.
- Justine attended the AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) 3-6 Assistant course during the school holidays. It was a 10 day course and very intensive so well done Justine on all your hard work!
- Jamie has been busy with her Montessori Diploma course with MCI (Montessori Centre International) which involves her travelling regularly to Tauranga for practical workshops.

Annual Questionnaire - Feedback

We are currently collating all our feedback and will e-mail a summary to our parent community very soon. Your feedback really does help with our review processes and planning so we thank you all for your participation.

Start of our Day

From 8.45am until mat time starts we like to encourage a gentle start to our preschool day. This is a good time for you to invite your child to show you their portfolio or ask them to select some work from the shelves that he/she knows how to work with independently. It's a time for settling your child so perhaps you could read a book together. Please support us in maintaining a calm and respectful environment in the way you interact with your child i.e. no rough play or allowing them to run around outside.

Class Photos

Class photos will take place on the 21st and 22nd October. The next individual photos will be scheduled for term 1.

Preschool T-Shirts

Good quality t-shirts with our logo on the front available to buy for \$20. Information and order form available at preschool.

Kelly Sports Afterschool Classes

Kelly Sports has been providing New Zealand children with a range of physical programmes since 2007, encouraging them to have fun, build confidence and give sport a go.

We have been in talks with Kelly Sports about providing a weekly afterschool class for our preschoolers and in the first instance they will be providing us with a free trial session on Thursday 29th October from 1.00-1.30pm.

All Thursday children will participate in this as part of our usual music/movement mat time. If we feel that an afterschool class could be beneficial for our preschoolers we will be aiming to set up a weekly arrangement with Kelly Sports. This would be optional and term fees for this programme payable directly to Kelly Sports. We will keep you posted but would love to hear whether this is something you would be keen for your child to participate in on a weekly basis.

Kelly Sports preschool programme covers a wide range of skills such as; running, dodging, jumping, hopping and skipping along with focusing on a child's stability and manipulative skills. These skills form an important part of a child's development.

New Starters

Starters: We welcome Christian, Gemma, Sophie-Mae, Daniel, Tiana, Torhon, Matilda, and Nathan.



Preschool Education in the Community

We are currently looking at different ways we can extend children's learning in the community and build partnerships with local organisations and groups. We will continue to schedule library trips and we'll be aiming for 4 during term 4 with each of the Key Teachers (Jacqui, Jamie, Josephine and Justine) all taking their groups of children.

One of the suggestions that came from the Annual Questionnaire was organizing beach clean up's which we thought was a great idea - thank you whoever suggested this! We have decided to organize a clean up of Howick beach on the 5th November to tie in with Conservation Week (1st-8th November) but as this is the first time we have done this we will be inviting older children only with a view to opening this up next year for all ages. This will give us time to try it on a small scale and refine it for all ages including those younger children.

We are also looking at getting the children involved in post office trips, grocery shopping for morning tea supplies and visits to local retirement homes. More information to come!

What to bring to preschool

Please pack at least 2 changes of clothes including underwear which should be named. A weather appropriate hat and also a lightweight rain jacket for those drizzly days in case we are going to the library (Howick) or your child wants to work in the outdoors. As the weather is starting to warm up your child needs to bring a hat or they will not be permitted to work in the outdoors.

Remember your child needs to bring a water bottle to preschool.

Holiday Programme January 2016 - Dates for your diary

We will be running a programme on the following days:

W/c 11th January 5 Days

W/c 18th January 5 Days

W/c 25th January 3 Days

More information closer to the time.

Sunscreen Fee

You will be charged \$8 at the start of term 4 to cover sunscreen application throughout the spring and summer months. This is an annual charge. If you would rather provide your own sunscreen then please advise Fiona to ensure we do not charge you \$8 in your term 4 invoice. Any sunscreen you provide should be packed in your child's bag daily and named. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUNBLOCK YOUR CHILD PRIOR TO COMING TO PRESCHOOL AND WE WILL REAPPLY AT LUNCH AND AS REQUIRED.

Lunches

Please remember we have a NO NUT policy and NO LOLLIES should be included in children's lunchboxes.

"Key Teacher" System

By now you should all be aware of who your child's Key Teacher is and the purpose of the system we have implemented however for any parents new to the centre here's some information...

- Every child is assigned a "Key Teacher" and this is the person that you will liaise with in the first instance should you have any questions or concerns about how he/she is settling and progressing at preschool.
- ALL teachers work with ALL children but your Key Teacher is almost like your child's advocate within the centre. For example, your Key Teacher will ensure that your child's portfolio is being updated by other teachers and kept current, act as the liaison between you and the rest of the teaching team, undertake your parent teacher interview and your Key Teacher will be the person to schedule and run the "birthday walk" mat time for your child prior to them leaving for school.
- It creates an environment of shared teacher responsibility and so far we believe is working very well - again your feedback is always welcome.

Dates for your diary

- Grandparents Morning Tea: We have postponed this and will re-schedule for next year.
- Labour Day: Preschool will be closed on Monday 26th October.
- Thursday 29th October 1.00pm-1.30pm Kelly Sports will be hosting a physical movement session with our pre-schoolers. (see above for more info)
- Thursday 5th November 9.30am-11.30am Howick Beach Clean Up (for children transitioning to primary school)
- Thursday 12th November Ladies Evening "World Organics" skincare and makeup range - enjoy some nibbles and try some new products presented by Sharon McGrath, Consultant. 7.00pm-8.30pm at preschool. RSVP by 9th November latest.
- Christmas Concert/Disco: **10th December 12.00pm** - please note that this is a change to our centre diary.
- End of Term 4: Friday 18th December.
- Christmas Craft Days: 21st, 22nd, 23rd December (optional attendance but you must pre-book/more information closer to the time).

Fundraising

Thanks for all your support in helping to raise \$39 for Loud Shirt Day last term. All proceeds help support children with hearing difficulties.

Finally

As many of you have primary school aged children to collect at the end of the day we strongly suggest you pick up your child from pre-school first as we're noticing some of our preschoolers are being collected after 3.15pm. Not only will this incur a late fee but it can impact our teachers who also have their own commitments. Thank you for your co-operation with this.



<https://www.facebook.com/thechildrenscornermontessoripreschoolhowick>

The Children's Corner Howick
Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

Independence

Individuality

Inquisitiveness

Inclusion



Working in partnership for the love of the child
mahi i roto i te mahi ngātahi mo te aroha o te tamaiti

Our Centre Vision (Pou Whakahaere)

To provide children (tamariki) with the opportunity to learn and develop holistically (kotahitanga) within our Montessori focused environment. To provide a safe, nurturing place for children to flourish physically, academically and spiritually (hauora). Foster in children a compassion and respect for others, truthfulness, kindness, responsibility, harmony and co-operation (manākitanga) through meaningful relationships with others (nga hononga). Our teaching and learning practices will promote positive learning outcomes for all children - Tikanga Whakaako. Consistently strong teaching practices will underpin our 4 Core Values of Individuality, Inquisitiveness, Inclusion and Independence. These Core Values will be reflected throughout our centre and curriculum.

One: Individuality (wairua)

- Children develop positive self-esteem and a strong sense of belonging through adults providing encouragement, warmth, and acceptance.
- Children's individual ways of learning will be understood and accepted.
- Children will be respected and valued as individuals and our curriculum will build on the child's own experiences, knowledge, skills, attitudes, needs, interests, and views of the world within each particular setting.
- Children's learning and development will be fostered in partnership with their family and community with their culture, values and aspirations acknowledged and respected.

Two: Inquisitiveness (uiui)

- Our curriculum will invite and entice participation from tamariki.
- We will encourage the "what if?" approach to learning (he aha) and provide challenges for creative and complex learning and thinking.
- We will develop working theories using a combination of knowledge, skills and strategies. Developing attitudes in order to understand and make connections between themselves, their environment and wider world.

- We will help children to extend their ideas and actions through sensitive, informed, well-judged interventions and support.
- Our environment will assist children in their quest for making sense of and finding out about their world including providing opportunities for open-ended exploration.
- Learning and development will be integrated through: tasks, activities, and contexts that have meaning for the child, including practices and activities not always associated with the word "curriculum", such as care routines, mealtimes, and child management strategies. We will provide a curriculum which views the child holistically.

Three: Inclusion (tae ana ki)

- Children rights to personal dignity, to equitable opportunities for participation, to protection from physical, mental, or emotional abuse and injury, and to opportunities for quiet time and reflection will be respected.
- All tamariki will be viewed as "children of Aotearoa" and as such we will provide activities, stories, and events that have connections with Māori culture and heritage as an essential and enriching part of the curriculum.
- We will foster a three-way partnership with child, preschool and family (whanaungatanga).
- We will recognise the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reflect the multicultural nature of society with children encouraged to understand and respect others.

Four: Independence (mana motuhake)

- Children will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and care, encouraging them to become independent and lifelong learners.
- Children know how to seek help and support from others.
- Children will have the opportunity to create and act on their own ideas, to develop knowledge and skills in areas that interest them, and to make an increasing number of their own decisions and judgments.



*A festive time to
get together!*

Where: The Childrens Corner
When: Thursday 12th November
Time: 7pm
RSVP to: Diane Cornelius
Phone/Email: thechildrenscorner@gmail.com

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